AUG 24 1918

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Vol. X., No. 485.] FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1918. [Price 2d.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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Important Notice.

Under the new Paper Restriction Order, the supply of papers on sale or return is prohibited. It will therefore be impossible in future for the public to obtain newspapers WITHOUT GIVING DEFINITE ORDERS. Readers of The Common Cause are therefore urged TO PLACE AN ORDER WITH THEIR NEWSAGENTS IMMEDIATELY, OR TO APPLY FOR The Common Cause TO BE POSTED DIRECT FROM THIS OFFICE.

Notes and News.

The Status of Aliens Bill.

On July 17th, the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill was considered in Committee. On the Clause which gives the Secretary of State power to direct that the wife of a man whose naturalisation certificate has been withdrawn shall also be denaturalised, Sir W. H. Dickinson moved an amendment to insert the words "provided that she is not a natural born British subject." Sir George Cave asked that the amendment should be withdrawn in favour of one he would himself move to insert the words "provided that the Secretary of State shall not make any such order in the case of a natural born British subject, unless he is satisfied that if she had held a certificate of naturalisation in her own right the certificate could properly have been revoked under the statute." After some discussion this was accepted, though Sir W. H. Dickinson said that what was being done was not bare justice to the women, and added: "Sooner or later we shall get to a point when we shall treat women as on an exact equality with men, and allow a British-born woman to retain her nationality in all circumstances."

A Crying Evil.

Sir W. H. Dickinson also moved an amendment to secure that when a British-born woman, married to an enemy alien, declares that she wishes to resume her nationality, the Secretary of State may, if he thinks advisable, grant her a certificate of naturalisation. He said his object was to give the Home Secretary power to remedy some of the most crying evils that had made themselves apparent during the war. "There are a very large number of British-born women—we have heard of them already this evening—who have years ago married Germans, and who now, all through the war, have suffered for that. I ask the Committee to take this opportunity of enabling these women to claim that their cases shall be reconsidered, and that they shall be, if the Home Secretary thinks it advisable, readmitted to the benefits of British citizenship." The amendment was supported by Mr. Anderson, Mr. T. Wilson, Mr. Charles Roberts, and Mr. Aneurin Williams, but Sir George Cave found himself unable to accept it without "further consideration." He offered to appoint a committee of experts to go into the whole matter, but Sir W. H. Dickinson was dissatisfied, and moved a new clause, the discussion of which, however, was deferred till the report stage of the Bill.

Sir Willoughby Dickinson's Proposal.

The report stage was taken on Friday, and Sir Willoughby Dickinson immediately moved his new clause. It had these objects: first, to secure to a British woman marrying an alien the right to retain her British nationality, unless she made a "declaration of alienage"; second, to provide that an alien woman marrying a British man should remain an alien, unless she asked for and was granted a certificate of naturalisation; and, third, to provide that a British woman marrying a man who was British at the time of marriage but ceased to be so afterwards should have the right of remaining British if she wished to do so. Had this clause been passed, the injustice from which women are now suffering in this question of nationality would have been attacked at its very roots. The discussion was an interesting one, and the matter was pressed to a division. The clause was lost by forty-nine votes to twenty-one was probably due to the fact that Sir George Cave promised in the course of the debate that the whole matter should be referred to a committee of experts, that there should be a woman on this committee, and that the matter should also be brought before the Imperial Conference. Mr. C. Harmsworth made the further suggestion that after the matter had been dealt with by the Committee the Home Secretary should get the Government to bring in a short Bill dealing specially with the status of women under the Nationality Laws. Sir Willoughby Dickinson has been strongly supported throughout his struggle by Mr. Charles Roberts. The twenty-one members who voted for his amendment were:—Rt. Hon. Francis D. Acland, Percy Alden, Frederick Handel Booth, Rt. Hon. Charles W. Bowerman; Rt. Hon. John Burns; H. W. Carr-Gomm; Henry George Chancellor; Sir William Collins; Percy A. Harris; Joseph King; Major Gilbert McMicking; Joseph Martin; David M. Mason; Peter Wilson Raffan; Charles H. Roberts; James Rowlands; G. R. Thorne; Henry A. Watt; Alexander Wilkie; Aneurin Williams; W. T. Wilson. Tellers for the Ayes—Sir W. Dickinson and Mr. Anderson.

A Point Gained.

Later on in the evening the Home Secretary conceded the point that the British-born wife of the subject of an enemy state might (if she so desired) be allowed to resume her nationality. The House agreed to this. All through the debate there was a very strong consciousness that numbers of women are dissatisfied with the present arrangements, and that as women are now voters, their dissatisfaction cannot be ignored. It is interesting to see how very rapidly the fact of an enfranchisement has begun to tell. The Status of Aliens Bill was read a third time.

Separation Allowances.

On July 17th, Colonel Sir H. Greenwood called the attention of the Prime Minister to the hardship suffered by the childless wives of soldiers and sailors whose separation allowances have not been increased since October, 1914, whereas those of

children were increased in January, 1917. Some childless wives go out to work, but there are others who are prevented by ill-health from doing so, and they have to bear the drawback of the present high prices without any compensating advantage of high wages.

Franchise Sunday in Leeds.

The Leeds Society of the N.U.W.S.S. did a fine piece of work in organising the great demonstration held on Franchise Sunday, July 21st. It is described by one of those who took part as "much more than a political gathering, a mobilising of the spiritual forces of the city to welcome its newly enfranchised citizens," among whom are included seventy thousand women. All the religious denominations and all the political parties drew together for this purpose. In the early part of the day special reference to the extended franchise and the responsibility of the vote was made in all the churches and chapels, and in the evening more than two thousand men and women gathered together in the Coliseum, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. R. Cross. It is described by those present as a deeply impressive meeting. It could have had no more appropriate chief speaker than Mr. Henderson, whose steadfast devotion to Women's Suffrage has never wavered through evil days and good, and who has so often shown that he sets it before any party consideration, and regards it as one of the most fundamental parts of the democratic ideal.

The New Enfranchisement.

Mr. Henderson's first theme was the responsibility of citizenship, a responsibility which has been deepened for the people and for the individual, by the new enfranchisement. Many past efforts to improve the moral and political, social and economic condition of the country have been paralysed by a limited and unfair franchise and an anomalous system of registration. If future efforts fail it can only be because of some defect of will. The power will be there. An electorate of nearly twenty millions will have matters in its own hands. If only each one of those millions will realise his or her share of responsibility, it will be hard to set a limit to what the British democracy of the future may achieve.

The Electors and the Future.

Another very interesting part of Mr. Henderson's speech was that in which he compared the newly enfranchised electors of to-day with those of 1832 and 1868, and showed how the great and tragic events of these last years have brought home to ordinary men and women the knowledge that national and international policy touch the very marrow of their lives. The new electors will want to vote, they will want to have some say in solving those world problems, which, if they are wrongly dealt with, bring struggle and anguish into every individual home. The crisis through which we are passing has quickened the souls of men and women, it has regenerated and humanised their standard of values: the dominating political issues of the future must be human and moral, concerned, not with the appearance of society, but with the essential realities of life.

Women and Men.

Mr. Henderson drew very well the distinction between the necessary organisation of women for things in which women are specially interested, and that unnecessary and indeed disastrous form of organisation, a Women's Party. Women are, he said, custodians of the future of the race in a more definite sense than men. Reconstruction of the industrial system is their vital concern. They must be organised to resist dehumanising exploitation. But also men and women must work together. The citizenship of women has a special value to the State, because of their way of looking at things. They will never say that disputes between nations should be settled by flinging the bodies of their sons into the fiery furnace of war; they will never say that poverty and disease must be tolerated because the cost of building better houses, of paying higher wages and caring for infancy and maternity are burdens that industry cannot bear; they will in some ways have a better standard of human values than men have had; but in order to bring that standard into effect in the right way they must work with men and not against them, and that, it is to be believed, the electors of the future will do. Such a gathering as that at which these words were spoken does indeed strengthen one's hope for a future in which old antagonisms will be put aside, and men and women will work with a single mind for the good of the commonwealth of which they are now free citizens.

Registration and Scotland.

We greatly regret that, in noting the alteration of registration dates last week, we omitted to state that registration dates for Scotland had remained unchanged. The last day for claiming to be put upon the lists in Scotland was July 17th, and for claiming to be registered as an absent voter July 31st, the dates originally fixed.

Women Teachers' Salaries.

The London County Council met on Monday to consider once again the vexed question of its women teachers. Not only did the Council know them to be dissatisfied to the verge of a strike, it knew them also to be on the point of leaving its service altogether. As one Councillor pointed out, there is only one other class of permanent employees of this Council who receive less pay—namely, the lavatory attendants in parks and open spaces. These highly-trained persons receive just 6d. a week less than the women to whom the training of our children is entrusted. In the face of facts like these, the Council had no choice but delay, compromise, or capitulation. In a sense it chose them all, and, though its technical procedure is confusing, the National Federation of Women Teachers has every reason to be congratulated on the result. Without prejudice to the further revision of the permanent scale (for which purpose a Whitley Council will probably be set up in the autumn) an immediate War bonus is to be granted to the teachers, and the amount of this bonus is to be discussed on Thursday (July 25th) by a round-table conciliation board, consisting of representatives of teachers and of the L.C.C. If agreement is reached it will be confirmed at the meeting of the L.C.C. on July 30th; and, if not, arbitration will be demanded at that same meeting. This is quick work for the L.C.C. The teachers have done well, and the best feature of it all is that the immediate concession of a bonus does not in any way prejudice their claim for a complete revision of the permanent scale.

Men Teachers.

The question of a war bonus for men teachers will doubtless come up for discussion at the same time. If they also gain it—as seems likely—there is no question but that they will owe their advance entirely to the agitation and determination of their women colleagues. No one but the L.C.C. will grudge men teachers a bonus; but it is to be hoped that they will have the generosity to recognise to whom they owe it, and that a spirit of comradeship and fellow-feeling may now, at least, replace the detestable spirit of grab which has prevailed for so many years. If the women teachers accomplish this, as well as the removal of their injustices, they will have to their credit as fine a piece of work as has been done by any set of women in the country.

Women Police and Special Constables.

At the time of writing a deputation has been organised by the Y.M.C.A. to wait on the Home Secretary on the subject of Women Police and Special Constables. The members of the deputation include Lord Sydenham, the Agents-General of all the Dominions, the Bishop of Kensington, Dr. Scott Lidgett, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Miss Macarthur, representatives of the N.U.W.S.S. and other societies, the Labour Party, and certain members of Parliament. The need for women police, and the success which has met their introduction in certain places, has already been dealt with in our columns. The deputation will place these facts before the Home Secretary, and will show how "the undesirable condition of the streets in large cities could be materially improved were a larger body of responsible women available to enforce a higher standard of general conduct, and also to supplement the regular police in specially congested areas." The deputation, therefore is (1) "to urge the Home Office to encourage the Chief Constables throughout the country to extend the policy already adopted in Oxford, Carlisle, and other places, and include Women Police as part of the Police Force of the district, with the same powers of arrest as the policemen"; (2) to recommend "that a corps of women special constables should be established on the same footing as the corps of men special constables. It is proposed that the corps of Women Special Constables in each city should be under the direct management of a Woman Sub-Director, who would work as the subordinate colleague to the director of the men special constables. The whole special constable organisation, both men and women, should work in collaboration, and in the same relationship as at present exists with the regular police force. The status, duties, powers of women special constables would be similar to those of the men."

Munitions Strike at Birmingham.

On going to press we learn that, unless the Ministry of Munitions' embargo on the mobility of skilled labour be immediately withdrawn a strike of the Birmingham munition makers will take place, in which 5,000 women will be involved.

THE L.C.C. AND ITS WOMEN TEACHERS.

NOT a few of those "persons" who were anxious to be early in Trafalgar Square last Saturday afternoon took temporary refuge from the weather in the National Gallery. One of the largest rooms now open to the public has lately been filled with canvasses depicting

"old, unhappy, far-off things
And battles long ago."

Here, too, is Velasquez' now more than ever pathetic "Orlando Muerto." These sad pictures gave rise to serious questionings. The inequality of the sexes, on the affirmation of which principle our present civilisation now rests, or rather totters, has fostered in the past, as in the present, vainglory and death. Could a sane equality be established and maintained between man and woman, is there not hope that there might be more charity and life in the future?

Such questionings transform what at first sight appears a mere municipal economic quarrel into a Cause worth fighting for. In that light the women teachers of London regard their quarrel—for it is more than a difference of opinion—with their task-masters, who have refused to submit the matter to arbitration. On Saturday, women teachers of all ages came to Trafalgar Square, some young and pretty, some old and lovely, all somewhat worn with anxiety, but all either cheerfully serious or seriously cheerful. When the rain lifted the Square began to fill quickly, until the crowd was out of hearing of the platform and clustered round Gordon's column. Women arrived first, followed by a fair sprinkling of wounded soldiers, some middle-aged men, and the sympathetic and elderly police, whose heaviest cares were to appreciate to the full the admirable arguments of the able speakers. One fine old man, with the stamp of "teacher" all over his countenance, was there to wonder, but not to applaud. He had "served his time," and his attitude was one of dignified, if somewhat self-satisfied and selfish aloofness.

Saturday's battle of words was waged in the cause of youth. On March 23rd, the first of those dark days before Easter, at the huge meeting of the Federation of Women Teachers in the Albert Hall, Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., told the men and women present that if the children of London were to receive the first-rate education that is a vital necessity, not only to them individually but to our country, whose destinies they will control, the women teachers must stand out for proper remuneration. That meeting in the Albert Hall in March affirmed a resolution unanimously (if the elderly gentleman and his seconder, who proposed an amendment which was of the nature of a direct negative, may be omitted) in favour of equal pay for equal work. THE COMMON CAUSE last month recorded another such resolution, carried at the Headmistresses' Annual Conference, with six dissentients only. Yet, in July, it was reported that an eminent educationist informed the House of Commons that the women's organisations were not in favour of equal pay!

In an article published in our columns last week, the grounds on which the Departmental Committee to consider salaries for teachers in Elementary Schools pronounced that, although the work of men and women teachers is not only equal, but is equally well done, it should not be equally paid, were analysed. If arguments in favour of equal pay in order that the position of the men teachers may be safeguarded are sought for, they may be found in last week's issue of "The London Teacher" (the organ of the London Teachers' Association), in an article written by an ex-President, who proclaims himself (in an ingenious attempt at literary camouflage) as opposed to the principle, whilst cleverly marshalling the arguments in favour of its adoption, *for the sake of the men teachers*. The men have suffered in the past through the competition of under-paid women, but, in a fine frenzy of that hope "which springs eternal in the human breast," the writes imagines that they can never so suffer again. (Yet year by year the male entrants to the teaching profession grow less numerous, and the teachers who have died on the battlefield during the four years of war may be numbered in thousands.)

Such arguments cannot fail to produce, in the mind of the ordinary woman reader, a state of aggravated wonder and alarm. If the Government is to be based on reason, let us all use our reasoning powers. If women's salaries are to be based on the law of supply and demand, now that women are politically free, let them reverse the title of that effete and immoral law, and create a law of demand (supply to follow when the demand is answered with justice and equity). *For the sake of the children.*

At this period of our history, children "*are the Thing.*" It is the children who matter, it is they who will re-establish our country, who will repeople its counties and the Empire overseas, who will rebuild our shattered ideals, who will create new hopes, and a new and true form of international love. For them, with the task of co-operating in the reconstruction of a world, and a world in which women will be politically free, no education can be too good.

Mr. Fisher himself has said that a discontented teacher is a danger. Had he been present at Trafalgar Square on Saturday, the President of the Board of Education could not have failed to discover in the good-humoured, eloquent, forceful, and determined speeches of the women orators from the plinth of Nelson's Column a burning dissatisfaction, which if not quenched, may light such a fire as will illuminate England from Land's End to John o' Groat's. For, as a critic in the crowd said: "If *they* come out on strike, many others will follow."

Both reason and justice are behind the women's claim for equal pay—yes, and expediency also: prejudice alone is the cause of the withholding of a right and proper answer to their demand—that prejudice which through thousands of years has been unable to regard women as important save as "wives and mothers," and which has, we believe, fostered vainglory and death.

Cannot the President of the Board of Education, cannot the London Education Committee realise that the women teachers of London are filled with a discontent that is built on a sense of justice when their colleagues are held in remembrance; a devotion to the truest well-being of their pupils, and a perfectly proper and dignified self-respect? Such divine discontent cannot be disregarded with any safety to the State.

President Wilson to the Women of the World.

We print beneath the full text of the reply sent by President Wilson to the memorial recently sent to him by "l'Union française pour le suffrage des femmes," and signed not only by them but by the suffrage organisations of Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Belgium, Portugal, South Africa, and the United States. The text of the memorial was printed in our issue of July 12th.

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

To the Memorialists of France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy and Portugal:

"I have read your message with the deepest interest, and I welcome the opportunity to say that I agree without reservation that the full and sincere democratic reconstruction of the world for which we are striving, and which we are determined to bring about at any cost, will not have been completely or adequately attained until women are admitted to the suffrage, and that only by that action can the nations of the world realise for the benefit of future generations the full ideal force of opinion or the full humane forces of action.

"The services of women during this supreme crisis of the world's history have been of the most signal usefulness and distinction. The war could not have been fought without them, or its sacrifices endured. It is high time that some part of our debt of gratitude to them should be acknowledged and paid, and the only acknowledgment they ask is their admission to the suffrage. Can we justly refuse it?

"As for America, it is my earnest hope that the Senate of the United States will give an unmistakable answer to this question by passing the suffrage amendment to our federal constitution before the end of this session.

"Cordially and sincerely,

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

Country Views on Education.

[Not enough is yet known about the views of working-class mothers, and especially of village mothers, concerning the education of their children; we have, therefore, great pleasure in publishing the following account of an effort to obtain some light on these views, which has recently been made in a small country village, far from any big town.—EDITOR, COMMON CAUSE.]

We are not very fond of laying down laws for the conduct of other people; so strongly-expressed views on Education in Great Britain, generally, are not to be expected from the electors of this county (Herefordshire). But a meeting recently called in this village to discuss State Education as it affects ourselves was readily attended, and provoked a good debate, every person present (with one exception) taking part. The speakers included employers and employed, the wife of a munition worker, women who, for years before the war, handled only 17s. weekly, and some in better circumstances.

The opinion was generally expressed that literary tastes in a child were always clearly distinguishable, usually before the age of twelve; that tastes of other kinds always showed themselves between twelve and fourteen, but not so usually before twelve. One speaker described the system of scholarships by which at present children can pass on from the elementary school, and one regretted that the necessary examination could only be taken by children under twelve. The rest, however, favoured this regulation. It was generally agreed that when a child showed marked literary taste it would be a great pity to terminate his education either at twelve, fourteen, or sixteen (whether or not it should terminate at eighteen was not discussed as being outside the range of practical politics.) I tried to gather opinions as to an university career, and gave an instance of the mediæval ladder of instruction, but it evoked no response, presumably being too new an idea. At this point various speakers gave expression to the obvious truth that if children are to continue in any course after fourteen it cannot be at the old school, as there would be neither room nor teachers available. Strong and unanimous disapprobation was expressed at the idea of forcing all children at fourteen to enter on the same secondary course. A few words were said as to the present curriculum. It was assumed, without discussion, that the time at present given to the four R's was irreducible, but some difference of opinion existed as to the disposal of the remaining time. In another district of this county, well known to me, there used to be a considerable amount of dislike for drill for the children, but this may have been because most of them came from a good distance—some from nearly four miles away—whereas here the schools are near, and consequently the children are not tired with walking. One woman expressed her strong approval of drill. Several speakers considered that as subjects for all children, whether looking forward to a clerkly calling or not, too much time was given to poetry and grammar. In the case of the great majority it led to nothing and wasted valuable time. There was one dissentient.

The rest of the discussion dealt with education after the age of fourteen. Opinion was absolutely unanimous that to lay on parents the burden of supporting children up to sixteen, unaided, would be unpardonable. Such a burden would, in fact, be unbearable, but the idea of maintenance grants was not received favourably. Looking strictly at our own local circumstances, it was pointed out that within easy reach of us there are various institutions—endowed and otherwise—providing both literary and technical facilities. It was felt that some scheme should be devised by which these could be utilised, *not* for all children, but for picked ones. This sentiment took various forms. One woman said, "When they get to that age and they wants to do a thing they will do it. It's not a bit of good to try and force them to anything else." Another said, "You can always tell what a child will be good at. The parents could judge if he would benefit by a school, and, if so, of which kind." Another said, "Too long at school spoils a girl for work." The objection to keeping any great number on beyond fourteen culminated in a short speech from the mother of a large family, in which she pointed out that numbers of our people are lodged in good houses, quite suitable for bringing up a family, but without accommodation for more than four adults including parents. For accommodation purposes we, very properly, I think, reckon girls at fifteen as grown-up. Assuming that children whose education should be continued beyond fourteen were to be only those with marked inclination, the questions were put:—

1. What form should the education take—daily classes, attendance at secondary, or at boarding-schools?
2. What subjects would serve the children best in after life?
3. How should the scheme be financed?

In answer to the first, it seemed to be felt that all the methods ought to be utilised, each for a different pursuit. It was frankly admitted that the young people themselves prefer continuation classes, especially when they can choose their own subjects, but, as regards girls with domestic tastes, classes were agreed to be quite inadequate. All were unanimous on the great importance of needlework. Cooking and laundry work met with some support. The idea of a boarding-school in which these subjects were taught, and thoroughly and systematically practised, was welcomed by all, but especially by the woman who had said that too long at school made girls idle. As she said, "This school would not do so, because it would only contain those who had a taste for things domestic." Failing this, a whole-time secondary course in these things was considered next best. In answer to the second question, as regards boys, no clear views were expressed. The chairman, who is well-acquainted with the highly-skilled nature of much agricultural work, and an ardent advocate of land development, especially by small owners, enunciated a scheme of his own for a great increase of itinerant teachers and agricultural instruction, both theoretical and practical. This was received with caution; want of time prevented its being more thoroughly discussed

No very clear answer was given to No. 3 either, but the statement was reiterated on all sides that, for the great majority of children, attendance at any school after fourteen was pure waste. Money was undoubtedly required—one woman pointed out that there is at present no system by which a girl developing, after twelve, a desire for learning, and desiring the career of a teacher, can be maintained during the pupil teaching stage, and thus many good teachers are lost. Any scheme should aim at a thorough education of the minority, not at the continual cramming of the majority. I may add that everyone present, with the exception of the youngest there, has now both a Parliamentary and a Local Government vote. MARGERY SMITH.

Victorian Heroines.—V.

THE WOMEN OF GEORGE ELIOT'S NOVELS.

George Eliot was one of the least paradoxical of writers, but in many ways she was herself a paradox. She was a typical Victorian, and she was outlawed by a large portion of the Victorian public. She was condemned as the propagator of infidel ideas, yet there is no other great novelist whose works are so saturated with Christian ethics as hers. She was condemned for having outraged morality and the sacredness of British family life, yet every one of her novels is permeated wih a Puritan sterness of moral outlook and a passionate veneration for family claims which can hardly be equalled in fiction. Many of George Eliot's own generation could not forgive her because she translated Strauss and lived with Lewes without being legally married to him. Many of the present generation, on the other hand, find it difficult to read her books, not only because the moralizing makes them dull, but because the insistence on duty, on fidelity, on the everlasting sacredness of divine and human claims is carried to lengths which are sometimes almost shocking to the modern mind. Janet, in "Janet's Repentance," is brutally maltreated by a cruel and drunken husband. After filling her life with agony and terror for years, he one night turns her out into the street in her nightdress. She finds a refuge, and at first her one impulse is to get away from him, to hide, never to fall back into his torturing power again. Her mother and the Evangelical clergyman who gives her spiritual help, both think that some arrangement for her living apart from him can be made, but Janet herself soon begins to feel that she ought to go back to him. The only doubt she has, is whether she will have strength to do it, and bear what will follow without falling into sin herself She has no doubt of her duty, only of her strength: she says:

"I feel so uncertain what to do about my husband. I am so weak—my feelings change so from hour to hour. This morning, when I felt so hopeful and happy, I thought I should like to go back to him and make up for what has been wrong in me. I thought how God would help me, and I should have you to teach and advise me and I could bear the troubles that would come. But since then, all this afternoon and evening, I have had the same feelings I used to have, the same dread of his anger and cruelty, and it seems to me as if I should never be able to bear it, without falling into the same sins and doing just what I did before. Yet, if it were settled that I should live apart from him, I know it would always be a load on my mind that I had shut myself out from going back to him. It seems a dreadful thing in life, when anyone has been as near to one as a husband for fifteen years, to part and be nothing to each other any more. Surely that is a very strong tie, and I feel as if my duty can never lie quite apart from it."

As a matter of fact, when Janet says this her husband, though she does not know it, is lying desperately ill from the results of an accident. She comes back to the house, and finds him in a state of wild delirium. She has no more thought of leaving him—"The question that agitated her about returning to her husband had been solved in a moment." She watches by his bedside with a passionate hope that he will get better and perhaps love her again, and that she will be able to show him her own love and tenderness. And one can have no doubt that George Eliot approves her attitude. She says in one of her letters that Janet was to her the best loved of her heroines, and it is as evident that she sympathised with her as it is that George Meredith sympathised with Diana of the Crossways in refusing to return to Mr. Warwick in his last illness, and with Carinthia Jane in her refusal to forgive her husband. Modern sympathies would be far more likely to be with Diana and Carinthia than with Janet. And even to a mind just unmodern enough to admire Janet's final forgiveness, there is something a little revolting in the account of her previous submission. "She was a high-spirited woman, but she was subdued in a moment by a word or a look that recalled the old days of fondness; and in days of comparative calm would often recover her sweet woman's habit of caressing, playful affection." "Caressing, playful affection" to a man who had beaten her overnight, would seem to modern woman no longer a sweet habit, but a horrible degradation.

George Eliot (in spite of Strauss and Lewes) belonged to her own age and not to ours. It was not for nothing that she was born in the same year as Queen Victoria; and her heroines, though like herself they revolted against the conventions of their day, are not in the least modern. In some ways they are all the more worthy of study at the present time. Our twentieth century humanity, like other generations that have gone before it, has discovered the glorious implications of certain truths that were not sufficiently recognised in the past, and is trying to follow them. Like other generations too, it is apt to be a little oblivious of the truths that *have* been followed in the past. The "favourite virtues" of our grandmothers' Confession Books are not those which would be regarded with most respect by modern women, even if they admitted "favourite virtues." *Our* favourite virtue is freedom of spirit, and in seeking for it we have travelled some way from the old points of view, and perhaps we have sometimes lost sight of aspects of truth and goodness which are as necessary, though not more necessary, than that. It is these aspects which George Eliot emphasises in her books, and above all in her description of her heroines, as it was these which she sought for in her own life. The quality which she most prized, both in women and in men, was undoubtedly faithful, devoted love, responding to every claim, fulfilling every duty, spending itself in eager, unwearied service, and in passionate, tender affection. It is this quality which makes the characters of Janet Dempster, Maggie Tulliver, and Dorothea Brooke: it shines in Dinah Morris and gives reality and completeness to the beautiful, though slightly sketched, portrait of Millie Barton. All the people in George Eliot's books who come to grief do so because they fail in the exercise of this quality or because they are sacrificed (like Lydgate) to the lack of it in someone else. Maggie Tulliver's disaster does not come upon her because she gives way to her passion for Stephen, but because she forgets for a moment the claims of Lucy and Philip. George Eliot does not care for self-control for its own sake, or for the sake of the freedom it gives, but because to fail in it is to fail in the service of love. That service is the great object of existence and its claims extend beyond the grave. Those who would do their task here and lead full human lives, must not only carry out every family duty, but they must fulfil all the pieties of the home and the community; they must reverence age and youth, show understanding sympathy to every creature with whom they come in contact and hold themselves responsive to every whisper of the love which is both human and divine. To George Eliot, as to Shakespeare, ingratitude was the master sin. On the other hand, she does not seem to have been very conscious of the sins which sometimes lie at the heart of love itself. The devotion she practised, and which she described in her heroines, was in most instances all-demanding as well as all-giving. "In her moral development she showed from the earliest years the trait that was most marked in her through life—namely, the absolute need of some one person who should be all in all to her and to whom she should be all in all. Very jealous in her affections and easily moved to smiles and tears, she was of a nature capable of the keenest enjoyment and the keenest suffering, knowing all the wealth and woe of a permanently exclusive disposition. She was affectionate, proud and sensitive in the highest degree." So writes Mr. Cross, the second husband whom she married because she could not live without "some one person who was all in all to her and to whom she was all in all."

George Eliot's most characteristic heroines, too, have "an exclusive disposition," and are "very jealous in their affections." They give sympathy but they also demand it. Dorothea Brooke at nineteen is pictured as in revolt against the trivialities and conventions of a young lady's life. What she longs for is not independence or self-development, or freedom from claims, but "some large yet definite duties." She thinks that she will find these by marrying Mr. Casaubon, who appears to her as "a living Bossuet, whose work would reconcile complete knowledge with devoted piety, a modern Augustine who united the glories of a scholar and a saint." Mr. Casaubon was, of course, nothing of the kind, but Dorothea began to be disappointed in him before she realised this, and one cannot help feeling that her disappointment was caused not so much by his failure to be a great person as by his failure to sympathise with her aspirations or respond to her emotions. This is perhaps only to say that Dorothea was human, for it is probable that the majority of human lovers love not so much a person as the difference that that person can make in their own lives. But there are many indications that George Eliot's large conceptions of love did not include the power of entire detachment from self, of giving without any return at all, or of refraining from giving, which may conceivably be part of the highest love. Her lovers, with the possible exception of Dinah Morris, would never have left their loved ones for the sake of an ideal, as Cordelia did, as Jane Eyre did. Maggie, it is true, left Stephen but that was for the sake of other people whom she loved. Even Dinah ended by marrying Adam Bede, and, we fear, sacrificing her chosen life.

Nor can one imagine any of George Eliot's heroines facing loneliness. Most of Jane Austen's women could have lived solitary lives, if necessary, in calm self-respect and "respectableness." Charlotte Brontë's women were always solitary, even in their passions. Lucy Snowe lived in fierce isolation from her environment. Jane Eyre, who was not only passionate, but very affectionate, could, when she thought it necessary, tear herself away from everything she loved in the world. Neither Maggie nor Dorothea could have done this, full of life and spiritual energy as they were; they were incapable of independence and detachment. It is true that even if they had been at Pension Beckthey would have found within its walls someone to depend on and love!

Turning to the characters whom George Eliot did not love, the most striking example of her moral attitude is perhaps her treatment of Hetty Sorrel. The story which was the germ of "Adam Bede" was a real one, and had been told to George Eliot by a Methodist aunt, who was in some respects the prototype of Dinah. It lived in her memory for years, and it is interesting to see how it worked in her imagination. Most great writers who have taken a similar theme have made the betrayed girl the centre of their story, and have pictured her as the victim of social conditions or of individual selfishness. George Eliot is more interested in Dinah than in Hetty, and although she does not condone the selfishness to which Hetty was sacrificed, she makes it quite plain that it was Hetty's own selfishness as much as her lover's that was to blame. Hetty's exquisite childlike charm and her soulless vanity are brought home to us in every line. George Eliot never wavers. Hetty has no "better feelings": she has no gratitude or affection for the worthy uncle and aunt who have brought her up, no sympathy for the little cousin she has to take care of, no real affection for her lover, hardly a glimmering of tenderness for her own child. She is wholly absorbed all through her happy time in her own little desires and vanities, and when her misfortune befalls her, in self-pity and terror. It is true that in the prison where she is lying waiting to be hanged she does break down and confess to Dinah, but it is the desire for comfort that prompts her. George Eliot does not allow her to be hanged (as the girl was in the real story) but she makes her die in prison. We do not see her again after that wonderful but tragic interview with Dinah, which is the climax of the book, but we *know* that the softening emotion that she felt then was transitory, just as the emotion stirred in Rosamond Vincy by Dorothea was transitory. George Eliot, with all her sentiment, has no sentimentality, both as a realistic artist and a moralist she is unflinching. Poor little lovely Hetty, whose beauty is so exquisitely described that we are enchanted by it, as the people who knew her were, is presented to us as one for whom there is no redemption, not because of the sins of others, but because she herself could not love.

We have only had space here to touch on a few of George Eliot's principal women characters: they best illustrate her theories about life: but her genius is not more visible in them

than it is in the great host of minor characters whom she describes with Balzacian realism, though not with Balzacian detachment. The tragedy of poor Mrs. Tulliver is as convincing as the tragedy of her daughter; Rosamond Vincy is as complete and searching a description of a selfish and self-satisfied person as can be found anywhere; Celia Brooke, with her gentle, trivial commonsense, her negative wisdom, her half-awed contempt for Dorothea's "notions," her inward certainty that "ardent religious convictions do not make for comfort," and that people who always talk well, even at breakfast, must be "dreadful to live with," is much more than a counterfoil. And who that has ever met them can forget the Dodsons, or Mrs. Poyser, or Dolly Winthrop. The provincial life described is the life of George Eliot's childhood, and is almost pre-Victorian; it is looked at from a Victorian standpoint. But the human and artistic value of the picture are permanent, if the Victorianism of George Eliot prevents her from being fully appreciated now it can only be because we (like the Victorians) are cabin'd, cribb'd, bound in, by the special limitations of the age in which we live.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

The Common Cause.

AN EDITORIAL APPEAL.

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will have noticed many developments that have taken place in the paper during the last few months. We are delighted to gather from letters and messages which constantly reach our office how much these developments are appreciated. We know that our readers realise that they have been made in the face of great and increasing practical difficulties. Not only is paper scarce, but all the material things that a paper needs before it can come into existence are scarce and growing scarcer, so that they can only be had at a greater and greater cost of money and effort. And even when these difficulties have been faced and overcome, there remains a more serious scarcity still—the scarcity of skilled human labour.

Some of our readers may think that, if the obstacles are as great as all that, we should give up the struggle to improve the paper, and be content with just keeping things going. But no one will think this who reflects on the great opportunity there is now for the kind of work that THE COMMON CAUSE is trying to do. In the past THE COMMON CAUSE has, we believe, been a help to the rest of our feminist organisations in winning the vote. Now, it is not only a help to other organisation, it is a great piece of work in itself. It has before it the important task of carrying the knowledge of feminism to thousands and thousands of people who up till now have cared for none of these things, and of spreading the faith that we believe to be so vital through the world.

But in order that it may do this effectively, it must be good enough in itself to appeal not merely to those who are feminists already, but to the outside public and, moreover, it must reach that public.

With deep gratitude for all that the devoted supporters of THE COMMON CAUSE have already done in the past, we ask them to help us on now; to remember that the cost of production increases from day to day, and that THE COMMON CAUSE cannot be made what they and we should like it to be unless they will help us to complete the two thousand pounds fund. We ask them also to help us to get more subscribers, to do propaganda work for THE COMMON CAUSE wherever they go and whenever they can, and to remember that in doing this they are furthering the cause of feminism in what is probably the most effective way that is now open to anyone at this time.

We ask every reader who has not done so already to send us a small donation for THE COMMON CAUSE fund, and also the name of at least one new subscriber. We shall be delighted to hear from our readers whether they approve of the recent changes in THE COMMON CAUSE, and whether they have any suggestions to make.

Reviews.

The League of Nations and the Democratic Idea. By Prof. Gilbert Murray. (Oxford University Press. 6d. net.)

"The plain fact is that the men who are caught in the whirlpool of this war are too good for the life they now live. . . . It is not only the pacifist and the eccentric who is craving in his heart for a gentler world. It is not only the thoughtful soldier, bent beneath a burden of intolerable suffering, who is torn by a long conflict between duties, in which he is forced to accept the most hateful as the most compelling. It is the common man and woman, the workman and peasant and teacher and civil servant and tradesman, who after this surfeit of hatred is wearying for a return of love." These words, occurring towards the end of Prof. Murray's pamphlet, "The League of Nations and the Democratic Idea," express in brief the side of the argument which he elaborates. He shows that people are too good for war, and he goes on to say "Yes" to the great question, "Can they help themselves?"

In Lord Grey's recent pamphlet he speaks of what the Governments can do, but he readily acknowledges that the peoples must contribute their part also—that the good will inherent in each human being must fructify. Prof. Murray evidently feels strongly that this treasure of good-will is in earthen vessels: "The proletariat, in the strict sense of the word, is that completely undistinguished mass of human kind which remains permanently at the bottom—the ground for glorifying them is mere despair of human nature. Democracy as a spirit is not attained until the average citizen feels the same instinctive loyalty towards the whole people that an old-fashioned royalist felt towards his King. It is that spirit which is first needed in order to build up the organisation for preventing war."

For this reason Prof. Murray is not greatly concerned about democratic control; like Lord Robert Cecil, he cannot quite believe that the democracy is grown up.

He gives a general assent to the League of Nations idea, with its Judicial Tribunals, its Councils of Conciliation, its "sanction of the economic boycott, of excommunication, and ultimately of a crushing war." But his heart is not in all this—in the conclusion of the whole matter he comes back again to the idea of democracy however imperfect, not so much the "peoples of the world" as the people of the world—the people, not each under its sovereign state, but as one big brotherhood. "Beyond all," he says, "" it will be the duty of the peoples themselves, and especially of their leaders, to make their international connections a reality and not a sham. . . . The greater social and political questions are already overflowing the geographical boundaries of particular nations. Capital and industry are largely and increasingly internationalised. The churches, too, if they are to keep alive, must know what is interesting similar churches in other nations. The philanthropists, temperance reformers, and the like, in various countries, are forming more and more the custom of conferring and acting together. . . . Let us hope that the disputes which come before the Council of Conciliation will not, even at the worst, be merely tugs-of-war between nations, with no principle involved but competing desires . . . no split of opinion or even of interest, neither political nor social nor religious, is fatally dangerous as long as it is not a split between sovereign states, because it is only such states, and not parties or churches or social groups, that "hold the keys of the arsenals." This last touch of grim humour gives food for much thought, and it also shows why Professor Murray's pamphlet should be taken as complementary to that of Lord Grey. His appeal will reach a public well-intentioned but politically untrained and timid, which Lord Grey may not reach. He leaves it without doubt that a democracy which hesitates is lost. "For if the way forward shows only a doubtful hope, the way backward is blocked by a fear that is not doubtful, a certainty more ghastly than our worst dreams."

National Endowment of Motherhood. By A. Maude Royden. (2d., post free, from Mrs. Burns, 34, Downshire Hill, N.W.3.)

Two of the problems which women must help to solve in the near future are how to ensure (a) Greater stability, more physical and moral health in home life; (b) Equal pay for equal value of work in the industrial sphere. Miss Royden's pamphlet, "National Endowment of Motherhood," shows how closely interdependent these two problems are.

The idea of national endowment has found acceptance in the success of the separation allowance scheme; but the proposal to make such endowment permanent has remained up to now in the region of academic thought. A few articles have been published, but THE COMMON CAUSE stands almost alone in having opened its columns to a whole series of reviews of the question from every point of view.

There has been little popular propaganda, but it would be a mistake to suppose that this is due to apathy on the part of women—and men—of advanced thought. On the contrary, so fully have some of them understand the far-reaching implications of the idea, its strength for evil or for good, its epoch-making character, that they have deliberately chosen to work upon it for many months in silence. Since last October an *ad hoc* committee has been studying, collating, gathering evidence, drawing up statistical tables, maturing thought. Now, almost upon the eve of a general election, they feel that the time for public propaganda on a large scale has come.

A few weeks ago Miss Royden's evidence before the Commission on the Decline of the Birth Rate was given prominence in all the leading newspapers, and since then this pamphlet "National Endowment of Motherhood," has appeared. The principle it embodies is simple enough in its broad outline—viz., a payment by the State "to every mother of children, plus an allowance for each child up to the age when it goes to school." The thing is simple, but it seems revolutionary—it *would* be so if "separation allowances" had not been before. Some people are attracted by the idea at once, some are violently repelled: both sorts should read the pamphlet, and there are few probably who, having picked it up, will not read it through to the end more than once. For it is curiously readable—it has the human quality of literature rather than of controversy, though it is full of hard sayings. Here is one: "Let us admit that the desire to have a little money of one's own, well earned, is not a wicked but a perfectly legitimate and just one." (This seems all right *except for mothers*, and it is just mothers Miss Royden is thinking about.) Yet the words following are unanswerable: "Many a mother is nurse, cook, governess, general servant, and housekeeper all in one. In any one of these capacities she could go out and earn money if she choose." Another hard saying: "Endowment should be accompanied by no compulsion. . . . There must be no arbitrary decision from outside as to the manner in which (the mother's) work is to be done. The State is concerned only with results." Miss Royden shows the unsoundness of the present system of wages, that unequal system bolstered up on the one hand by a want of clear thinking on the part of the representatives of organised labour—and their wives—and on the other by the

sentimentalists of the upper and middle classes, who regard any attack upon the present wage system as an attack upon the sanctities of the home and the foundations of the State. No one reading the pamphlet before us can doubt that the sanctities, and the foundations are in dire peril under the present system, by which, on the one hand, you have the pretence that low wages are right for women because they need little or no support themselves and do not support others, while (relatively), on the other, high wages are right for men because they support a wife and family. Miss Royden shows clearly enough the underlying fallacy of these theories—how the economic value of women's work in the home is at present unrecognised, and the unsoundness of the idea that in actual fact a man is paid according to his responsibilities. If this were so, why no graded rates, and, above all, why no State enquiry as to how he spends his money? This pamphlet will convince many readers that maternity endowment is an urgent question, and all who believe so should get to work, for, as Miss Royden has observed elsewhere, ideals too long discussed and not put into practice produce fatty degeneration of the soul.

A. H. W.

"On Keeping Well." By Dr. Beatrice Webb. (Published by the Y.W.C.A., 26, George-st., Hanover-square, W. 1. Price 4d.).

This excellent pamphlet, which combines clarity, simplicity, and interest, is a short treatise on how first to prevent, and secondly to deal with, the early stages of anæmia, indigestion, headaches, and colds. There is also a very helpful and straightforward section entitled "Sex Relations," which describes the dangers and symptoms of venereal disease and how to avoid infection, and which includes much high-minded and sound advice on the subject of morals. Every girl of every class, whatever her work, would do well to read what Dr. Beatrice Webb has to say about keeping well.

RECENT VERSE.

"The People's Palace." By Sacheverel Sitwell. (Blackwell, Oxford, 2s. 6d.)

"Demeter." By Eleanor Deane Hill. (Blackwell, 2s. 6d.).

"The People's Palace" is a curious book. Those who care passionately for form will not be tempted, by a first glance, to read it; I do not mean merely that Mr. Sitwell has discarded the shackles of rhyme, but also that his sense of rhythm is not very highly developed, and that there is not perfect unity of subject and expression in many of his poems. His sense of beauty, however, is highly developed. His images, metaphors, and adjectives are all good. In "Fragments from the Sirens" there are one or two examples of his apt use of words, notably in the following:—

". . . . and patches of dire blue
Restrained the knotted whips of spray
From striking 'gainst our ship—"

"Knotted" is forced, but "dire" shows real observation and imagination: it illuminates—it is the word one might have thought of and didn't. "Tahiti," "The Feathered Hat," and "Trumpets" all have this merit—the merit of a fresh, enquiring, searching mind and eye brought to bear on life and art. "The Mayor of Murcia" we found almost unreadable for dullness, and its point seems doubtful. We would give not a little to see what sort of poems Mr. Sitwell would write if constrained to use rhyme and regular rhythm; we believe that a period of bondage would have a remarkable result: that his subsequent rejoicings in freedom would put him in the first rank of our younger poets.

Miss Hill is rather ambitious; she loves Keats and Spenser; woods and flowers, trees and sunlight. "Demeter" is a concoction, a fusion of this ambition and these tastes. But it is a better poem than this description suggests. There is a lightness about it and pleasant ease—— If only the subject weren't so hackneyed! We feel impelled to exhort Miss Hill to go on; to beware of redundancy, to concentrate; and to study from life rather than from the poets. We feel no interest in her characters—her story is simply a peg for descriptions of the things which move her, but some of the descriptions are charming; some of the verse is poetry.

E. B. C. L.

Correspondence.

COUNTRY COTTAGES.

MADAM,—I would like to point out to your correspondents who complain of cottages being insanitary that the present law is amply strong enough to deal with this evil, if you can only persuade District Councils to enforce it. First you must persuade electors to take a little interest in the matter, and the Councils would certainly respond. At present, whereas the ratepayer does take a certain interest in local affairs, that of the sanitary enthusiast is not noticeable. Will the new electors take up these questions? We must hope so. But it will be wise not to expect too much from them. Let me, however, remark in passing that the agricultural counties are much in advance of the mining districts in the health of their houses. Let anyone who is interested in the matter compare the infant death rate of Oxfordshire and Berkshire with that of Durham and Glamorganshire.

MAUD SELBORNE.

DOMESTIC SERVICE, OR THE DRAMATIC PROFESSION.

MADAM,—Mrs. C. S. Peel has a most wonderful—an almost uncanny insight—into the above subject. She knows exactly the whole position of employer and employed. Her reference to the inferior social status and the lack of courtesy on the part of the servants' male companions is illustrated by a fact that happened some years ago in connection with a Sunday School Class of young women of whom I had the honour and happiness of teaching. The lads in the neighbouring class—boys of seventeen and eighteen years—deliberately refrained from raising their hats to two little domestic servants in the class, whilst according the act of courtesy to the other

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girls—some of whom were working in a match factory. Impertinent ignorance, of course, on the part of the young men, not worth noticing, critics will say. True! But cruel and heartbreaking to the little maids, just beginning to feel and understand their dawning womanhood.

I was present at the meeting organised by the Womens' Industrial Council and heard around me some of the adverse criticisms to which Mrs. Peel refers.

Doubtless the time will come, when employers of domestic labour will say "Thank you, Mrs. Peel, for preparing us in some degree for the inevitable disappearance of the old-time domestic servant."

ALICE BOND,
Hon. Sec., Lambeth Women's Citizen Association.

LEGISLATION AND THE SOCIAL PROBLEM.

Mrs. Swanwick writes to explain that in her letter published in our issue of July 12th she supported her statement that those who are making proposals for fresh legislation on the moral question had done so without adequate thought by a number of reasons. Scarcity of space prevented us from printing the whole of her letter, and it thus happened that the reasons given by Mrs. Swanwick were left out.

As we feel that this unavoidable shortening of the letter may have given an unfair impression of Mrs. Swanwick's argument to some of our readers, we gladly print this explanation, and regret that we are unable to re-open the correspondence. ED. "C.C."

Reports, Notices, etc.

CONFERENCE OF WORKERS IN THE METAL TRADES.

A crowded Conference of workers in the metal trades was held in the Priory Rooms, Birmingham, on the 20th inst., to consider the position of women in the metal trades, their effect upon wages, their prospects after the war. It was called by the Birmingham Society of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and supported by leading representatives of the organised workers—men and women—of Birmingham and district. Mr. Frank Spires, President of the Birmingham Trades Council, was in the chair. The points to be discussed were as follows:—

1. Number of trades and processes where women have replaced men.
2. Facilities for training and apprenticeship of women in skilled trades.
3. The effects on skilled workers of new methods and machinery.
4. The effects on wages of paying women at inferior rates for the same work as men.
5. Trades considered unsuitable for women.
6. Effects on the labour market of pensions of soldiers' wives and widows.

The meeting was very well attended, delegates from men's trades unions forming the majority of the audience who, it was soon indicated, had come not only to listen to the set speeches, but still more to bring forward their own views. The result was a large number of speakers and a most keen and animated discussion.

Mr. SPIRES, in his opening remarks, pointed out the magnitude of the problem involved in the demobilisation of the women munition workers, and said that proper provision must be made for those who, through necessity or choice, wish to remain in industry. The Right to Work, and an adequate maintenance allowance would have to be granted by Government.

Mr. J. J. MALLON, of the Anti-Sweating League, in opening the Conference, pointed out that the solution of the many points before it must come from the people who have practical acquaintance with the problems. Two great considerations must be kept in mind—that this is an unprecedented time of promise and hope for Labour, and that, in order to create a new era in industry we must have common sense, a spirit of service, an absolute unanimity of purpose and aim, and complete trust between the sexes. It is, moreover, important to realise that the pledge given by Government to the trades unions as to the restoration after the war of their rules and agreements must be kept in the letter and in the spirit. Before the war the men's struggle had been made more difficult by the fact that employers could and did introduce women as blacklegs. What we must now emphasise is that women must be looked on as *trade unionists*, and that the opposition to their inclusion in industry must be not opposition to *women*, but opposition to *blacklegs*.

The important things to make for are: (1.) Equal pay for equal work (loud applause); (2.) a high minimum wage of 25s. a week; (3.) provision by the Government of a high minimum wage.

Mr. FATHERS, Chairman of the Birmingham Labour Party, endorsed what Mr. Mallon had said on equal pay for equal work, and emphasised how important it is that men and women should work together as pals.

Mr. SPIRES further advocated shorter hours of work as the true aim of "labour-saving" machinery.

Mrs. MITCHELL, of the National Federation of Women Workers, showed the large number of trades in which women were now employed, and how important it is to keep up rates of pay to cover increased cost of living. She believed that if women had the same training as men they would be able to do as well as the latter. She deprecated sex-antagonism, and said that harm was being done on account of members of the Women's Party having the right of entry to canteens and taking advantage of it to speak against the men. (Note.—The right of entry is not granted to members of any other society or party.)

Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY, N.U.W.S.S., in referring to the need of training for women workers, pointed out that what actually is happening now is that women are coming in piecemeal to trades; sometimes they get a good training through being particularly fortunate in their particular workshop, or because they have attended the schools of instruction and the instructional factories of the Ministry of Munitions; others never learn anything.

One gets, therefore, picked women, who, having gone into munitions, find themselves natural-born mechanics, who love their machines and the feel of the material and "seeing the wheels go round."

In the majority of cases, however, women have only succeeded in becoming skilled on part of a job. The danger is that these women will be used by the employers to cut away the ground under the feet of the skilled engineers. It is absurd to say that these women are skilled workers, but they will be employed as such at low rates unless the women enjoy the same training, the same trade union control, and the same rates of pay as men.

Mrs. COOPER, of the N.U.W.S.S., speaking on women in dangerous trades, showed how women had in many cases been employed on dangerous trades before the war, because the men, being better organised, had often refused to undertake such trades. Let men and women have common sense and work together in order to fight foreign competition. There must be no sickly sentiment; women can't do all that men can do, but it must be thought out very carefully which are unsuitable trades and which are not.

Councillor RAY JAMES, of Redditch, observed what a striking commentary on our social order it is that, in spite of improvements, we still requite on a basis of sex rather than of service, and how any work undertaken by women is notoriously underpaid. He quoted an essay of a school child on men, as follows: "Men are what women marry; they drink, smoke, and swear, and don't go to church on Sundays. Men and women both sprang from monkeys, but woman sprang the farthest." We must take care not to treat women only as "what men marry."

Councillor ELEANOR RATHBONE, of Liverpool, speaking on the effects on the labour market of pensions of soldiers' wives and widows, said that employers, wanting to combine patriotism with economy, are trying to employ such workers at lower rates.

We have always had with us the problem of the pocket-money wage-earners, who can be such a danger, as they can afford to accept lower rates; however, if they have the *will* to stand out, they certainly have the *power* more than other workers who are absolutely dependent on their work.

We need legislative as well as trade union action and a great extension of Trade Boards. Miss Rathbone added that she did not believe in equal pay for equal work, as women have certain standing disabilities, such as a heavy marriage mortality, limited powers, greater absenteeism through sickness (though a lower rate of that absenteeism which starts on Monday mornings!), which make it impossible to consider her of equal value to the employer as a man worker engaged on the same job.

Many speeches followed from delegates. It is not easy to sum up the feeling of the Conference, as so many points were raised and so few worked out to any definite conclusion. The sense of the meeting, however, was quite obviously on the side of "a fair field and no favour," equal pay for equal work, and of the inclusion of women in men's trade unions, or sometimes in unions of their own. One speaker pointed out that it was not the fault of the inexperienced women workers that more women had not joined trades unions, but that the men in the workshops either couldn't or wouldn't help. There was, however, a feeling generally on the part of many of the older men that women were at present being engaged on work unsuitable for women. One delegate announced, for instance, that he might be considered old-fashioned (!), but had his mother been engaged on work similar to that he had been called upon to admire being undertaken by women, he would have pushed her into the canal!

A resolution was moved by a delegate of the A.S.E., as follows: "That in the opinion of this Conference the questions under discussion this afternoon are of such magnitude that it would be impossible to formulate definite proposals; but, with a view to getting united action, this Conference strongly recommends amalgamation between all unions catering for specific industries."

It was made clear, in answer to questions, that women's trade unions should be included in this motion. The A.S.E. did not at present admit women members, but the mover of the motion hoped that it soon would do so. The motion was carried, and further Conferences on definite points were asked for.

A special tribute should be paid to Mrs. Carol Ring, secretary of the Birmingham Society, who was responsible for the organisatin of the Conference, for the very admirable way in which her work had been carried out, which resulted in the great success of the Conference.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. OSLER.

On July 16th, in the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, a large gathering met to give to Mrs. Osler the replica of the portrait which has been painted of her and accepted by the City Council of Birmingham for its Art Gallery. The portrait has been given by friends and fellow-workers of Mrs. Osler, not all of them suffragists, but all of them people who have been associated in some way with her public and political work for her own city and in the cause of the interest and freedom of her own sex.

It was felt specially fitting that the first portrait of an eminent *woman* citizen to be hung in the Art Gallery of the city should be that of one who has represented for so many years the ideal of equality as between women and men. The artist is a Birmingham man, Mr. Edward Harper, who has painted many portraits already hanging in the art galleries of other towns; and the beautiful album containing the names of the donors with an expression of their appreciation was prepared and illuminated by his daughter.

The replica and album were presented to Mrs. Osler on behalf of the subscribers by Alderman Clayton, a very old friend, who had worked for many years with Mrs. Osler and her late husband, Councillor Alfred C. Osler, for the good of their fellow-citizens, and especially for the workers, both men and women. Alderman Clayton is a recent adherent to the Suffrage Cause, and spoke hopefully of the results he anticipated from the women's vote in creating a better future for our country than we have known in the past.

Mrs. OSLER, in her reply, said that she felt the portrait in the Art Gallery stood as the symbol of the city's appreciation of the services of all its women rather than as a picture merely of herself. Her words, which were greatly appreciated by the men and women present, revealed the lofty disinterestedness which has ruled her whole life, and that of her husband, and which has carried on the traditions of her uncle, Mr. Peter Taylor, and his wife, the friends of Mazzini.

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Chief Technical Adviser of the National Salvage Council, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

On July 10th, a too small audience listened with intense interest to Mr. Dawes, who spoke upon one section of the work of the Salvage Council—*viz.*, that devoted to what in towns is most improperly termed "refuse." In the past millions of pounds have been spent on "destructors," but these we are beginning to see destroyed (as in Glasgow and Edinburgh and elsewhere) or turned to other uses.

Of the contents of the dustbin, 30 per cent. are cinders, which possess a high calorific value, which is to that of the best coal as 23 is to 27. Corporations can grade and wash cinders automatically and use them for steam-raising—*e.g.*, for public baths.

If coal fires are used in the home, from 8 per cent. to possibly 24 per cent. of the heating value of coal is obtained; but if gas fires are used 70 per cent. is utilised, and valuable chemical products are saved too. Besides, gas fires are hygienic, and air pollution is avoided. It is a well-known fact that railway lines in a smoke zone last half the time of lines outside that area, with the same amount of traffic.

Before the war, this country let Germany have our old tins. The National Salvage Council have now evolved a superior process for dealing with them. Tin is at a very high price now, for there is a world shortage. It is likely to rise to the price of silver. Many factories are now working on salvage tin at 20s. per ton, spending 30s. per ton on treatment, and selling for £20 per ton!

Corporations can get 15s. per cwt. for rags, which they must sterilise first. It would pay them to give their workmen half, which is far more than the workmen could sell for on their own account. Everything with a fibre is valuable.

Bones have most varied uses; certainly, without bones no glue, and without glue no aeroplanes. Of glass, too, and paper there was much to tell that cannot here find place; and so, too, of fat, rubber, hair-combings, stinging-nettles, grape-pips, and other organic matter. Finally the lecturer gave reason for his urgent request that all fruit-stones may be saved.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

The principle of the enfranchisement of women having been established by the passing of the Representation of the People Act of 1918, the Committee of the Women's Tax Resistance League have decided to dissolve.

At the outbreak of war it was felt by a majority of the members of the League that at that moment of national crisis they could not continue their tax resistance, and it was therefore decided to suspend all active propaganda till the end of the war. The Committee, however, to the last moment held a watching brief, and representatives of the League have attended conferences and meetings of the Consultative Committee before and during the passage of the Bill, and they were prepared to call members together should the need have arisen. Happily, all danger is now over, and we may rejoice on the partial victory obtained.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
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Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).
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Headquarter Notes.

The Conference at Birmingham, which is fully reported elsewhere in the paper, was a triumph of organisation, and Mrs. Ring and the Birmingham Society are to be most heartily congratulated on the representative nature of the gathering. The only matter for regret was that more of the National Union was not represented, as the general feeling of those delegates from societies that were present was that they had "learnt a lot."

The Union is actively engaged in pressing for a day for the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, for which there seems considerable support in the Commons.

The Information Bureaux, conferences, and organisation of pressure, all cost money—please send it along.

Treasurer's Report.

We note with a very considerable amount of satisfaction that a number of our Societies have responded to our request that an effort should be made to distribute copies of the Permanent Fund and New Citizens Appeal. Cambridge, Deal and Walmer, Glasgow, Sunderland, and Tynemouth have asked us to send them appeals for distribution. We urgently need the help of all our Societies to make known our new schemes in quarters where support may be looked for. Will any Society which feels it can be of help to us in this way write to us for copies of the appeals and endeavour to distribute them for us? The Information Bureau, if it is able to develop, will be of very great assistance to the societies, so we confidently ask their help in establishing such a fund as will ensure the success of this scheme.

Literature Report.

The Literature Department has now in stock Miss M. Royden's new pamphlet, "The National Endowment of Motherhood." While undertaking no responsibility on behalf of the National Union for the views expressed in this pamphlet, we would strongly recommend it to our readers as both useful and interesting. The Literature Department is also stocking three excellent Y.W.C.A. social service pamphlets, "The Woman at Home," "The Woman as Worker," and "Our Industrial Laws."

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With the probability of a general election in the autumn, societies must be prepared for a considerable revival of correspondence, and secretaries are reminded that the Literature Department stocks excellent stationery with corners in the colours. Good stationery and above all good envelopes are scarce and dear, and this in pre-war quality is well worth securing. The price per ream in quarto size is 8s., or 2s. per packet of 5 quires. Envelopes to match are 2s. per 100, or 1s. 6d. for the smaller (Court) size.

The Opening of the Third "Common Cause" Hut.

The third hut presented to the Y.M.C.A. by readers of the COMMON CAUSE will be opened by Lady Sclater on July 31st. It is at Netheravon, on Salisbury Plain. The opening ceremony will begin at 3 o'clock, and all friends of the COMMON CAUSE and of the N.U.W.S.S. will be welcome. Though the hut is to be opened, our readers will remember that there is still a balance (£131) of the sum necessary for it to be collected. We earnestly hope, therefore, that they will continue their kind help.

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Reports from Societies.

LEEDS.—I have been asked to write "an account" of the Renaissance of the Leeds Suffrage Society. I hate writing accounts, but perhaps an impression might serve the purpose.

It was a memorable annual meeting we had in April; our leaders thought there was nothing more to be done save to sing the Doxology and disband. Our leaders! . . . Bless them! . . . Have they not given the best of their lives for the cause? Have they not served and sustained in the dark days of the movement? Small wonder they are tired. They have cut the steps by which we can climb; they have laid the foundations upon which we can build. While honouring them we cannot heed them when they urge us to disband, and thus our resolution "to carry on and go forward." To put this policy into effect we rented an office in the centre of the city, an able Hon. Sec. stepped into the breach, and we took the Outlook Club for the last day in May. There we thought we might attract fresh faces and blend old friends with new. A little band then set to work with unconquerable hope to organise success. It was found, far from having to toll curfew over dying embers, a flame was soon kindled. Everyone was anxious to hear about the reorganisation and the new policy.

May we pause to opine—the public mind is at present highly sensitized; people are in a receptive mood and the future of the National Society depends on the use of these psychological days when we may add victory to victory or come to a *cul de sac*.

. . . The Outlook Club is a young women's club which holds about three hundred—it was full almost to discomfort with interested folk. We began by a business meeting of members which was of a formal character. Then we came to the Reception by Mrs. Fisher, supported by the Vicar of Leeds, Lady Lawson Tancred, and others. Professional women, industrial workers, teachers, parsons and many well known men and women of the city chatted in friendly groups. About sixty new members were enrolled, mostly at the close of the meeting, and twenty-five shillings' worth of literature was sold. Our new Hon. Sec., Miss Tree, had a word for all; Miss Hartop, who is well known in Yorkshire was enabled to get in touch with many old and new friends.

The meeting which followed, presided over by the city's best speaker, Professor Grant of the Leeds University, was both enthusiastic and instructive. Mrs. Fisher outlined the future policy of the Union. She inspired us, and those who had lost the track began to recognise it once more winding up hill to a summit out of sight. Mrs. Fisher was followed by a vigorous parson, Rev. H. S. Woollcombe, Lady Lawson Tancred, of whom more will be heard, Miss Hartop, to whom the same remark applies, and then an industrial worker, Mrs. Leonora Cohen, a new member of our Executive who will be most useful, being the most influential woman Trade Unionist in the City. Votes of thanks closed the meeting. . . . the meeting, and so homeward by twopenny tram. . . . Everyone felt the meeting an inspiration . . .

Our action in the near future includes:

(*a*) Franchise Sunday on July 28th, sermons in churches and chapels, united meeting in the Town Hall. We ask help from Headquarters, and why should they not promote a National Franchise Sunday, especially for large cities? Hiss Hartop is pushing Bradford and Sheffield, but a lead would show vision and be invaluable. . . .

(*b*) Conference with teachers. This is being arranged.

(*c*) Candidates for City Council. We hope our new Secretary may be one, and we have others in mind.

(*d*) Information Bureau. We want this badly, but ways and means are difficult.

(*e*) A meeting in an Industrial Parish has been arranged; others are in mind and that anxious pleasure a garden party.

. . . . . WATCHMAN.

On Sunday, July 21st, Franchise Sunday was held in Leeds. Special sermons were preached in the various places of worship in the City. In the evening a mass meeting was held in the Coliseum, where 2,000 people gathered to hear the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., speak on the "Responsibilities of Citizenship." Mr. J. R. Cross, J.P. (Chairman of the Leeds Society) presided, and was supported by the Vicar of Leeds, Dean Shine, and the Rev. George Allan, Lady Lawson Tancred and others. All the speakers referred to the work of the N.U.W.S.S., and 2,000 copies of the Union's pamphlets were distributed. The meeting owes much of its success to the energy and enthusiasm of the Chairman, Secretary and Committee of the Leeds Society.

WEST BROMWICH.—On July 11th, 8 p.m., a public meeting was held under the auspices of the Women's Suffrage Society in the Free Library, at which there was a large attendance. Councillor Eleanor Rathbone gave a most interesting address on the Women Citizen's Associations, which was closely followed by a sympathetic audience. Practically every women's society in the Borough had sent delegates to the meeting, also those societies which consist partly of women. At the close of Miss Rathbone's address, Mrs. Archibald Kenrick, who was in the chair, proposed a resolution that a Women Citizen's Association should be formed in West Bromwich; this was seconded by Miss Hazel, President of the Women's Liberal Association, and carried unanimously. A Provisional Committee was formed at once from the delegates present, Mrs. Archibald Kenrick being elected President. Councillor Rathbone congratulated the Committee of the Suffrage Society on having obtained representatives from the three political parties, and thought that the Women Citizen's Association had made a very promising beginning.

LONDON UNITS, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT.—Miss Vera Holme, who was with Dr. Elsie Inglis in Serbia, Russia and Roumania, has just given a series of lectures in this district. Making a strong appeal to the public of Liverpool first, she daily attracted increasingly enthusiastic audiences, many coming to hear her at least twice, so as to miss nothing of her narrative. No doubt all expected to be interested, but scarcely to be so carried away by the accounts of the experiences of the Scottish Women as they undoubtedly were. The description of the tragedy of the Serbian nation and the sad state of the people in Russia before and during the early days of the Revolution made an irresistible appeal even to the least imaginative.

The lecturer's keenly humorous descriptions of the lighter side of the Scottish Women's experiences in these countries of our Allies relieved the sense of horror which her frank accounts of oppression, privation, and misery could not but convey.

The part played by the Scottish Women throughout filled the hearers with pride. It was grand to feel that one could claim as fellow-countrywomen those who had shared in such wonderfully effective and self-sacrificing work. One Scottish Woman in particular always found her exact place in the work—whether organising at the foundation, or holding dignified conference with Government, military or medical officials—Dr. Elsie Inglis, one for whom, in Miss Holme's own words, "difficulties only existed to be surmounted."

Item of Interest.

THE WOMEN POLICE SERVICE has a considerable number of new appointments open, for which well-educated women are invited to apply. The work is not only patriotic, but deeply interesting. Recruits are paid 25s. weekly while training. The salary commences at £2 7s. 6d. per week on appointment. The next course of training is due to begin on September 2nd. Applications should be addressed to: Recruiting Officer, Women Police Service, 6, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S).

JULY 29.

Moreton-in-the-Marsh — The New Women Voters—Speaker: Mrs. Ring 3 p.m

Islington—St. Thomas' Church, St. Thomas' Road, Finsbury Park—The Church Side of the Vote—Speaker: Miss Relf 3 p.m.

WHEN Miss Royden resumes her ministry at the City Temple, in August (6 p.m.), she will begin a special course of sermons on "Beauty and Religion," as follows: 11th, "The Meaning of Beauty in Religion"; 18th, "Poetry and Religion"; 25th, "The Beauty of Christ's Teaching"; September 1st, "The Beauty of Common Things."

AT the present moment, when economy in every direction is so imperative, it is most desirable to know of a thoroughly good Dyer and Cleaner. It is well to keep in mind Mr. George Webb, of 254, Brixton-hill, S.W., who is an old standing advertiser in the COMMON CAUSE. Specialised experts only employed in each department and giving direct personal supervision to all the work done. Exceptional care and promptitude is shown in the cleaning of uniforms. W.R.E.N.S. and W.A.A.C.S. please note!

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[Continued on page 196.

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Continued from page 195.]

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the National Press Agency Ltd., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, The Common Cause Publishing Co. Ltd., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. *London:* George Vickers. *Manchester:* John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. *Newcastle-on-Tyne:* W. H. Smith & Son. *Edinburgh and Glasgow:* J. Menzies & Co. *Dublin and Belfast:* Eason & Son.